

## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY & FINANCING

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**DATE:** Week Ending Friday, March 27, 2009

**TO:** Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Community

**FROM:** Ginny Brown, Legislative Liaison and Nicole Storm, Legislative Analyst

**RE:** Legislative Report – 2009 Session of the Colorado General Assembly

Representative Primavera and Senator Kester's bill, HB09-1164, **Surcharge on Breast Cancer Awareness Special License Plates**, establishes a twenty five dollar surcharge for the purchase or renewal of breast cancer awareness license plates and expands Medicaid eligibility under the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment program (BCCP) to individuals who have been screened by a provider who does not receive funds through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. The bill passed was heard before the Senate Transportation committee on Tuesday, and was referred to with amendments to Finance.

HB09-1293, Colorado Healthcare Affordability Act, Representatives Ferrandino and Riesberg and Senators Keller and Boyd, passed on second and third reading this week and now moves to the Senate. This bill would allow Colorado to leverage state funds to draw down additional federal funds to provide coverage to more than 100,000 uninsured Coloradans. The proposal also would help stem the rising cost of health insurance for businesses and families by addressing cost-shifting, one of the key drivers of rising costs, without increasing the burden on taxpayers. By assessing a provider fee on hospitals, Colorado would generate an additional \$600 million a year to provide coverage to the uninsured, and receive \$600 million in federal matching funds. The combined \$1.2 billion would cover more than 100,000 currently uninsured Coloradans through Medicaid and the Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+). The funds also would improve hospital reimbursement rates for service provided through Medicaid and the Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP).

On Wednesday, HB09-1222, **Medicaid Over-expenditure Authority**, sponsored by the Joint Budget Committee, was introduced in the Senate and assigned to the Finance Committee.

**Nursing Home Penalty Cash Fund**, HB09-1196, Representative Kerr and Senator Boyd, passed on third reading in the House on Wednesday. The proposed bill requires the Department to distribute funds from the Nursing Facility Penalty Cash Fund for measures that will benefit residents of nursing facilities by improving their quality of life by promoting culture change in nursing facilities.

HB09-1143, **Concerning Health Maintenance Organizations to Offer limited Benefit Plans**, Representative Swalm and Senator Schwartz, was heard on Wednesday before the House which considered Senate Amendments and the result was to concur and repass.

Due to inclement weather, the legislature adjourned early on Thursday and will not reconvene until Monday. All scheduled bills will be laid over until next week.

For more information about legislative activities please contact Ginny Brown 303-866-3972 or Nicole Storm 303-866-3180 or access www.colorado.gov to search the General Assembly Web site. A legislative report will be updated weekly on our Web site www.colorado.gov/hcpf under Partners and Research, Legislative Information, Legislative Update.